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# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM for Massachusetts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
NORTHEAST DIVISION

**T**HE 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program gives farmers all over the country an opportunity to work together in saving their soil and its fertility, bringing about fairer incomes for themselves, and assuring consumers plenty of supplies.

All farmers in Massachusetts who cooperate in the 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program will be offered assistance in using approved soil-building practices which will help to build up their soil. They will also have the right to earn payments by staying within acreage allotments for tobacco, potatoes, and vegetables.

The 1940 program year begins November 1, 1939, and ends October 31, 1940.

## WOODLAND REHABILITATION ALLOWANCE

Each farm in Massachusetts, except those in Barnstable and Berkshire Counties, will have a woodland rehabilitation allowance of \$60. This allowance may be earned on woodland which constitutes a serious fire hazard as a result of the September 1938 hurricane damage, by eliminating the fire hazard, improving the remaining stand of forest trees, and providing for the restoration of a full stand

of forest trees. The work must be done with the prior approval of the county committee and in accordance with instructions issued by the county committee and approved by the State committee.

This allowance is not included in the soil-building allowance.

Payment at the rate of \$4 for each acre on which this work is correctly done will be allowed toward earning the woodland rehabilitation allowance.

### REFORESTATION ALLOWANCE

Each farm will have a reforestation allowance of \$30 in addition to the soil-building allowance.

This reforestation allowance may be earned by planting transplanted forest trees at the rate of at least 1,000 trees per acre. One thousand trees planted on two or more small tracts of less than 1 acre each shall be considered as an acre even though the total area may be larger. Shrubs helpful to wildlife may be included in the planting.

Areas planted must be given reasonable protection from fire and damage by livestock-grazing and must be cultivated in accordance with good tree culture and wildlife management practice.

Species of trees approved for planting are red pine, white pine, balsam fir, red spruce, white spruce, and Norway spruce. Other varieties may be planted if the county committee, upon advice of the Extension Forester, approves the selection.

Payment at the rate of \$7.50 per acre will be allowed toward earning the reforestation allowance.

### SOIL-BUILDING ALLOWANCE

Each Massachusetts farmer who takes part in this program is expected to use one or more of the soil-building practices which are good for his farm. To get the most good from the program he should use, insofar as possible, practices which are not already being used on the farm. In order that the farmer will know how many practices he may carry out for payment, a soil-building allowance will be computed for his farm. This soil-building allowance is found by first adding all of the following items which apply to the farm:

- 70 cents times the acreage of cropland on the farm, not counting acreage in tobacco and potato allotments. **Cropland** means farm land which in 1939 was tilled or was in regular rotation, not counting any land in commercial orchards.
- \$2 times the acreage of commercial orchards on the farm on January 1, 1940. **Commercial orchards** means the acreage in planted or cultivated fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards, hops, or bush fruits on the farm on January 1, 1940, from

which the principal part of the production is normally sold. This definition does not include nonbearing orchards and nonbearing vineyards.

40 cents times the acreage of fenced, noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half the acreage of cropland on the farm.

For those farms on which the sum of these items is \$20 or more, the soil-building allowance will be equal to the total of these cropland, orchard, and pasture items.

For those farms on which the sum of these items is less than \$20, the soil-building allowance will be equal to the **larger** of (1) the sum of these cropland, orchard, and pasture items or (2) the amount by which \$20 is more than the sum of the allotment payments which could be earned on the farm.

FOR EXAMPLE: A farm has 10 acres of cropland and a 5-acre vegetable allotment. The sum of the cropland, pasture, and orchard items is \$7.00, computed as follows:

10 acres cropland at \$0.70 .....	\$7. 00
No pasture and orchard .....	
Total .....	\$7. 00

The largest payment which can be computed on the vegetable allotment is \$7.50 ( $5 \times \$1.50$ ).

$$\$20.00 - \$7.50 = \$12.50$$

\$12.50 is therefore the soil-building allowance because it is larger than \$7.00.

## SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

The following are soil-building practices which farmers in Massachusetts may carry out for payment under the 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program. For each practice carried out as specified and in accordance with good farming practices on the farm, payment at the rate shown for the practice will be allowed toward earning the soil-building allowance for the farm. However, the total payment for carrying out practices cannot be larger than the soil-building allowance.

If one-half or more of the total cost of carrying out any practice is represented by labor, seed, trees, or materials furnished by a State or Federal agency other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the practice shall not be counted toward earning the soil-building allowance.

If less than one-half of the total cost of carrying out any practice is represented by labor, seed, trees, or materials furnished by a State or Federal agency other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, one-half of the practice shall be counted toward earning the soil-building allowance.

Trees purchased from a Clark-McNary Cooperative State Nursery shall not be deemed to be paid for in whole or in part by a State or Federal agency.

## SEEDING RED OR ALSIKE CLOVER

### Practice No. 1—*Rate of Payment: \$0.75 per Acre*

The seeding of mixtures containing at least 5 pounds per acre of hardy, northern-grown domestic or Canadian red clover, or alsike clover, or of any combination of these clovers.

Seeding should be on land prepared by the application of sufficient lime, superphosphate, and potash to insure a good stand.

If the stand is unsatisfactory, a soil test or other evidence satisfactory to the county committee must be submitted to show that enough lime and fertilizer were applied to establish ordinarily a good stand.

## SEEDING ALFALFA

### Practice No. 2—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 per Acre*

The seeding on land suited to the growth of alfalfa of at least 10 pounds per acre of hardy, northern-grown domestic or Canadian alfalfa seed, alone or in mixtures.

Seeding should be made on land prepared by the application of sufficient lime, superphosphate, and potash to insure a good stand.

If the stand is unsatisfactory, a soil test or other evidence satisfactory to the county committee must be submitted to show that enough lime and fertilizer were applied to establish ordinarily a good stand.

## SEEDING PASTURE MIXTURES

### Practice No. 3—*Rate of Payment: \$3 per Acre*

The seeding of pasture mixtures containing at least 2 pounds per acre of ladino or white Dutch clover.

Seeding should be made on land prepared by the application of sufficient lime, superphosphate, and potash to insure a good stand.

If the stand is unsatisfactory, a soil test or other evidence satisfactory to the county committee must be submitted to show that enough lime and fertilizer were applied to establish ordinarily a good stand.

## RESEEDING DEPLETED PASTURES

### Practice No. 4—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 for Each 10 Pounds of Seed*

The application to depleted pastures of a pasture mixture containing at least one-fifth ladino or white Dutch clover seed in mixtures with grass or legume seed. No tillage is required.



## APPLYING AVAILABLE PHOSPHORIC ACID

### Practice No. 5—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 for Each 48 Pounds*

The application of available phosphoric acid to established hay land, pasture, or orchard sod, or to green manure crops in orchards; or in connection with the seeding of clovers, clover mixtures, alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, perennial grasses, winter legumes, green manure or cover crops in orchards, or permanent pasture mixtures.

Payment will be allowed for phosphoric acid which is mixed as superphosphate with manure in the stable or on dropping boards in poultry houses if the manure is to be used on pasture, hay land, or orchard sods, or on green manure crops in orchards, or in connection with the seeding of clovers, clover mixtures, alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, perennial grasses, winter legumes, green manure or cover crops in orchards, or permanent pasture mixtures.

When phosphoric acid is used on a nurse crop which is harvested for grain, payment will be allowed only for the amount over 32 pounds per acre.

## APPLYING SUPERPHOSPHATE FURNISHED BY THE A. A. A.

### Practice No. 5A—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 for Each 100 Pounds*

The application per acre of at least 100 pounds of triple superphosphate, or the equivalent, furnished by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, to established hay land, pasture, or orchard sod, or to green manure crops in orchards; or in connection with the seeding of clovers, clover mixtures, alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, perennial grasses, winter legumes, green manure or cover crops in orchards, or permanent pasture mixtures.

Payment will be allowed for triple superphosphate which is mixed with manure in the stable or on dropping boards in poultry houses if the manure is to be used on pasture, hay land, or orchard sod, or on green manure crops in orchards, or in connection with the seeding of clovers, clover mixtures, alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, perennial grasses, winter legumes, green manure or cover crops in orchards, or permanent pasture mixtures.

Triple superphosphate furnished by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration must not be used on a nurse crop which is to be harvested for grain.

## APPLYING AVAILABLE POTASH

### Practice No. 6—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 for Each 75 Pounds*

The application of available potash to established hay land, pasture, or orchard sod; or in connection with the seeding of clovers,

clover mixtures, alfalfa, alfalfa mixtures, perennial grasses, winter legumes, or permanent pasture mixtures.

### LIMING CROPLAND, PASTURE LAND, OR ORCHARDS

#### Practice No. 7—*Rate of Payment:*

ALL COUNTIES EXCEPT BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPDEN, AND HAMPSHIRE:  
**\$5** per ton of standard ground limestone or standard ground oystershell which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, or 1,000 pounds of calcium oxide neutralizing equivalent in other liming material which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.

FRANKLIN, HAMPDEN, AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES:

**\$4.70** per ton of standard ground limestone or standard ground oystershell which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, or 1,000 pounds of calcium oxide neutralizing equivalent in other liming material which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY:

**\$4.20** per ton of standard ground limestone or standard ground oysters shell which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, or 1,000 pounds of calcium oxide neutralizing equivalent in other liming material which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.

The application per acre of at least 750 pounds of hydrated lime, 500 pounds of quicklime, or 1,000 pounds of other liming material to cropland, pasture lands, or orchards.

Standard ground limestone and standard ground oystershell mean ground limestone and ground oystershell which will analyze at least 50 percent calcium oxide neutralizing equivalent, 100 percent of which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and which contains all of the fine material produced in the grinding. Calcium oxide neutralizing equivalent is found by multiplying the magnesium oxide content by 1.39 and adding the product to the calcium oxide content.

### LIMING CROPLAND, PASTURE LAND, OR ORCHARDS WITH LIMING MATERIAL FURNISHED BY THE A. A. A.

#### Practice No. 7A—*Rate of Payment:*

ALL COUNTIES EXCEPT BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPDEN, AND HAMPSHIRE:

**\$5** per ton of standard ground limestone which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.

FRANKLIN, HAMPDEN, AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES:

**\$4.70** per ton of standard ground limestone which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY:

**\$4.20** per ton of standard ground limestone which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve and which contains all of the fine material produced in grinding.



The application to cropland, pasture lands, or orchards of liming material furnished by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. In order for payment to be allowed, the farmer must use at least 1,000 pounds of ground limestone per acre.

### GREEN MANURE CROPS

#### Practice No. 8—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 Per Acre*

The plowing or disking under of a good stand and a good growth of (1) biennial or perennial legumes or grasses for which no payment for seeding is allowed in 1940 and, except in orchards, from which no crop of such legumes or grasses has ever been harvested; (2) annual legumes; or (3) annual grasses or small grains used as summer green manure crops on vegetable or orchard land, or used as winter green manure crops.

If the crop used is one which is normally winter-killed, payment will be allowed for leaving a good stand and a good growth on the land instead of plowing or disking it under.

If the crop is grown in a commercial orchard and has not been harvested in 1940, payment will be allowed for cutting and leaving an evenly distributed good stand and good growth of such crop on the land, except that cutting is not required in blocks of trees damaged by the September 1938 hurricane.

### SUMMER GREEN MANURE CROPS

#### Practice No. 9—*Rate of Payment: \$0.75 per Acre*

The plowing or disking under of a good stand and a good growth of grasses or small grains used as summer green manure crops on land other than vegetable land or orchards.

### SEEDING WINTER COVER CROPS

#### Practice No. 10—*Rate of Payment: \$1.50 per Acre*

The seeding of winter vetch and leaving the resulting crop on the land as a winter cover crop. Rye or wheat may be used as a support crop for winter vetch.

### SEEDING ANNUAL RYEGRASS

#### Practice No. 11—*Rate of Payment: \$0.75 per Acre*

The seeding of annual ryegrass and leaving the resulting crop on the land as a winter cover crop.

## MULCHING ORCHARDS AND VEGETABLES

### Practice No. 12—*Rate of Payment: \$3 per Ton*

The application of at least 2 tons per acre of air-dried straw or hay, or the equivalent, excluding barnyard manure, to orchards and vegetables as a mulch. All materials produced on the land during 1940 from grasses, legumes, green manure crops, or cover crops, as well as the mulching material, are to be left on the land.

### Special Requirement for Practices 13, 14, and 15

Operators shall obtain prior approval from the county committee and carry out the practice in accordance with the advice of the Extension Forester.

## IMPROVING WOODLANDS

### Practice No. 13—*Rate of Payment: \$3 per Acre*

The improvement of the stand of forest trees under a system of farm woodland and wildlife management which includes pruning or thinning or, if needed, both. At least 100 good timber trees or trees which can become good timber trees must be left well scattered on each acre of woodland improved.

The following are recommended as desirable species for development:

Red pine.	White maple.	Beech.
White pine.	Red maple.	White ash.
Spruce (any kind).	Hemlock.	Red oak.
Black cherry.	Tulip poplar.	White oak.
Cedar.	White birch.	Basswood.
Fir (any kind).	Yellow birch.	Hickory.
Sugar maple.	Black birch.	Elm.

## PLANTING FOREST TREES

### Practice No. 14—*Rate of Payment: \$7.50 per Acre*

The planting of transplanted forest trees at the rate of at least 1,000 trees per acre. One thousand trees planted on two or more small tracts of less than 1 acre each shall be considered as an acre, even though the total area may be larger. Shrubs helpful to wildlife may be included in the planting.

Areas planted must be given reasonable protection from damage by livestock-grazing and fire and must be cultivated in accordance with good tree culture and wildlife-management practice.

Species of trees approved for planting are red pine, white pine, balsam fir, red spruce, white spruce, and Norway spruce. Other

varieties may be planted if the county committee, upon advice of the Extension Forester, approves the selection.

### **EXCLUDING LIVESTOCK FROM FARM WOODLAND**

#### **Practice No. 15—*Rate of Payment:* \$0.75 for Each 2 Acres**

The restoration of farm woodland, including sugar maple orchards, previously used for pasture, by keeping out livestock.

Payment will be allowed for each acre of farm woodland out of which livestock are kept, but for not more than 2 acres for each animal unit which is normally allowed to graze in the woodland.

Animal unit means one cow, two calves, one horse, two colts, five sheep, or five goats, or the equivalent thereof.

If under the 1936, 1937, 1938, or 1939 program a farmer has received payment for constructing fence to keep livestock out of woodland or for keeping livestock out of sugar maple orchards or other woodlands, and the county committee determines that in 1940 livestock were again allowed by that farmer to graze in the same woodland or sugar maple orchard, an amount equal to the previous payments will be withheld from any payment which would otherwise be made to such farmer under the 1940 program.

### **SANDING CRANBERRY BOGS**

#### **Practice No. 16—*Rate of Payment:* \$7.50 per Acre**

The application of sand, free from stones or loam, to a depth of at least one-half inch on fruiting cranberry bogs to prevent soil deterioration and decline in the productive capacity of the land. The county committee will require proof of the amount of sand applied.

### **Special Requirement for Practices 17, 18, 19, 20**

Operators must obtain the approval of the county committee and instructions from the Soil Conservation Service or the Extension Service before performing any of these practices.

### **CONTOUR FURROWING, NONCROP, OPEN PASTURE LAND**

#### **Practice No. 17—*Rate of Payment:* \$0.75 for Each 2 Acres**

### **STRIPCROPPING**

#### **Practice No. 18—*Rate of Payment:* \$0.75 for Each 2 Acres**

The planting of cropland in strips on the contour. Strips of inter-tilled crops must be separated by strips of close-growing crops.

## CONTOUR FARMING

**Practice No. 19—Rate of Payment: \$0.75 for Each 4 Acres**

The cultivation of intertilled crops on the contour.

## TERRACING

**Practice No. 20—Rate of Payment: \$1.50 for Each 200 Linear Feet**

The construction of standard terraces for which proper outlets are provided.

## AMOUNT OF PAYMENT EARNED ON FARMS WITH NO ALLOTMENTS

On a farm which has no acreage allotment, the farmer has the right to earn for the year an amount equal to the sum of the soil-building allowance, the woodland rehabilitation allowance, and the reforestation allowance. If he earns less, he will be paid what he earns. A farmer who wants to earn all he can under the program on a farm with no allotment should be careful not to plant more than 3 acres of vegetables for market and not to plant more than 3 acres of potatoes.

The total payment will be computed as follows:

Find the amount of the soil-building payment by adding together the payments for all soil-building practices carried out at the rates for the practices. However, if the total amount computed is larger than the soil-building allowance, the soil-building payment will be equal to the soil-building allowance.

Add to the soil-building payment the amount earned under the reforestation allowance.

Add also the amount earned under the woodland rehabilitation allowance.

Then subtract \$20 for each acre over 3 planted to commercial vegetables.

Subtract 30 cents per bushel times the normal yield for each acre over 3 planted to potatoes.

The remainder will be the total payment earned for the farm.

## ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS

In 1940 acreage allotments, usual acreages, and normal yields will be set by county committees in accordance with instructions issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

A potato allotment will be set on each farm that usually grows 3 acres or more of potatoes. If less than 90 percent of the farm's potato allotment is planted, the potato allotment will be reduced to 110 percent of the acreage planted.

A tobacco allotment will be set on each farm which grew tobacco in one or more of the years 1935 to 1939, inclusive, and on each farm on which tobacco is to be produced in 1940 for the first time since 1934. If less than 90 percent of the farm's tobacco allotment is harvested, the tobacco allotment will be reduced to 110 percent of the acreage harvested unless failure to harvest at least 90 percent was due to flood, drought, hail, or other abnormal weather conditions, or planted diseases.

If more than 10 acres of corn for grain are usually grown on a farm with a potato or tobacco allotment, a usual acreage of corn for grain will also be set for that farm.

A vegetable allotment will be set for each farm on which 3 or more acres of vegetables are usually planted to be sold to persons not living on the farm. If less than 90 percent of the farm's vegetable allotment is planted, the vegetable allotment will be reduced to 110 percent of the acreage planted.

## AMOUNT OF PAYMENT EARNED ON ALLOTMENT FARMS

On a farm with any acreage allotment, the farmer has the right to earn for the year an amount equal to the sum of the soil-building allowance, the reforestation allowance, the woodland rehabilitation allowance, and the payments computed for all of his allotments. If he does not carry out all the practices he may, or if he grows more allotment crops than he should, the amount earned will be less.

The amount that is earned on any farm with an allotment is computed by finding the sum of the following payment items which apply to the farm and then subtracting the sum of the deductions, if any apply.

### FARMS WITH POTATO ALLOTMENTS

A **payment** at the rate shown for the practice will be computed for each soil-building practice carried out. The payment for practices cannot be larger than the soil-building allowance.

A **payment** of \$7.50 for each acre planted to forest trees will be computed under the reforestation allowance. The total amount earned for planting forest trees under the reforestation allowance cannot be larger than \$30. However, a part or all of the soil-building allowance may also be earned by planting forest trees under practice No. 14.

A **payment** of \$4 for each acre of woodland cleared under the woodland rehabilitation allowance will be computed. The total amount cannot be larger than \$60.

A **payment** of 3 cents per bushel times the normal yield of potatoes per acre will be computed for each acre in the potato allotment.

A **deduction** of 30 cents per bushel times the normal yield will be made for each acre planted to potatoes over the potato allotment.



If there is no vegetable allotment on the farm, the farmer should be careful not to plant more than 3 acres of vegetables to be sold to persons not living on the farm. If he does, there will be a deduction of \$20 for each acre over 3. Vegetables, as defined under the program, do **not** include potatoes.

A farmer should also be careful not to harvest more than 10 acres or the usual acreage of corn for grain, whichever is greater. If he does, there will be a deduction of \$10 for each excess acre.

#### FARMS WITH TOBACCO ALLOTMENTS

A **payment** at the rate shown for the practice will be computed for each soil-building practice carried out. The payment for practices cannot be larger than the soil-building allowance.

A **payment** of \$7.50 for each acre planted to forest trees will be computed under the reforestation allowance. The total amount earned for planting forest trees under the reforestation allowance cannot be larger than \$30. However, a part or all of the soil-building allowance may also be earned by planting forest trees under practice No. 14.

A **payment** of \$4 will be computed for each acre of woodland cleared under the woodland rehabilitation allowance. The total amount cannot be larger than \$60.

A **payment** of 1 cent per pound times the normal yield will be computed for each acre in the tobacco allotment.

A **deduction** of 8 cents per pound times the normal yield will be made for each acre of tobacco harvested over the tobacco allotment.

If there is no potato allotment on the farm, the farmer should be careful not to plant more than 3 acres of potatoes. If he does, there will be a deduction of 30 cents per bushel times the normal yield for each acre over 3.

If there is no vegetable allotment on the farm, the farmer should be careful not to plant more than 3 acres of vegetables to be sold to persons not living on the farm. If he does, there will be a deduction of \$20 for each acre over 3. Vegetables, as defined under the program, do **not** include potatoes.

A farmer should also be careful not to harvest more than 10 acres or the usual acreage of corn for grain, whichever is greater. If he does, there will be a deduction of \$10 for each excess acre.

#### FARMS WITH VEGETABLE ALLOTMENTS

A **payment** at the rate shown for the practice will be computed for each soil-building practice carried out. The payment for practices cannot be larger than the soil-building allowance.



A **payment** of \$7.50 for each acre planted to forest trees will be computed under the reforestation allowance. The total amount earned for planting forest trees under the reforestation allowance cannot be larger than \$30. However, a part or all of the soil-building allowance may also be earned by planting forest trees under practice No. 14.

A **payment** of \$4 will be computed for each acre of woodland cleared under the woodland rehabilitation allowance. The total amount cannot be larger than \$60.

A **payment** of \$1.50 will be computed for each acre in the vegetable allotment.

A **deduction** of \$20 will be made for each acre planted to commercial vegetables over the vegetable allotment.

Commercial vegetables means the acreage of vegetables and truck crops of which the principal part of the production is sold to persons not living on the farm. This definition includes, among others, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, cantaloups, strawberries, and commercial bulbs and flowers, but excludes Irish potatoes, peas for canning or freezing, watermelons, and sweet corn for canning.

If there is no potato allotment on the farm, the farmer should be careful not to plant more than 3 acres of potatoes. If he does, there will be a deduction of 30 cents per bushel times the normal yield for each acre over 3.

### INCREASE OF PAYMENTS

There will be added to each person's share of the farm payment, if that share is less than \$200, the amount of increase indicated in the following:

<i>Payment earned</i>	<i>Amount of increase</i>
\$20 or less.....	40 percent.
\$21 to \$40.....	\$8, plus 20 percent of amount over \$20.
\$41 to \$60.....	\$12, plus 10 percent of amount over \$40.
\$61 to \$186.....	\$14.
\$187 to \$200.....	Enough to increase payment to \$200.

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE

There will be deducted, from each person's payment, his share of the expense of administering the program in his county.

**FURNISHING MATERIALS**

Superphosphate and liming material will be furnished in Massachusetts to farmers who want those materials in place of a payment, provided the county committee approves the use of this service in the county. You may obtain further information about this part of the program from your county committee.

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